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September 29, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONFERENCE TO GENERATE MOMENTUM FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

CHARLESTON -- Central Illinois educators will join business/industry leaders for an Oct. 7 conference that could lead to educational reform.

The conference is the first initiative of the Stockman Institute, a "think tank" recently established in cooperation with the Eastern Illinois University Foundation to honor the memory of Verne Stockman and to perpetuate the values personified by him.

Mr. Stockman served as director of media at Eastern from 1955 to 1972. He died on June 9, 1993. He valued leadership, mentoring, and above all teaching.

The conference will unite local educators, including superintendents, principals, librarians, media specialists and teachers from K-12, with EIU faculty from the College of Education and Professional Studies, members of the Stockman Institute Board of Directors and business/industry representatives for a discussion of contemporary educational problems.

"The Stockman Institute Inaugural Conference: An Agenda for Contemporary

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Education" is the first in a series of seminars and forums on the many educational issues affecting society, said Linda Moore, constituent officer, College of Education and Professional Studies.

"It will provide opportunities for developing partnerships between educators in secondary and higher education and business professionals, who are at the forefront of shaping this region's educational agenda," Moore added.

The ideas generated by conference participants, she said, will impact the direction of education in central Illinois and provide the momentum for change in teacher preparation and technology-based education.

The noon keynote address at the Worthington Inn in Charleston will be by Ted Sanders, Ohio's superintendent of public instruction. He previously held the posts of U.S. deputy secretary of education and Illinois state superintendent of education.

The conference also features Roger Sublett, director of the National Fellowship Program for the Kellogg Foundation. He will focus on defining problems facing education and the foundation's agenda for addressing those problems.

Other speakers include Calvin Stockman, a son of Verne Stockman and dean of continuing education at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Concurrent sessions led by EIU faculty and members of the Stockman Institute Board of Directors will cover the challenges and opportunities facing schools, teachers and technology.

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"The institute's members hope to find solutions to problems in education today, such as increased competition for financial resources, changing family structures, increased societal expectations and low morale. This will be an ongoing process," Moore said.

Future activities of the Stockman Institute include conducting studies and research on educational issues and creating scholarships, fellowships and/or endowed chairs for EIU students and faculty.

For more information about the Stockman Institute or to register for the conference, open to the public, call 581-3313.